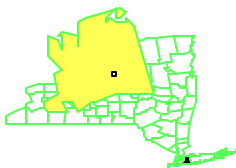


LIBERTY INDUSTRIAL FINISHING NEW YORK

EPA ID# NYD000337295



EPA REGION 2 CONGRESSIONAL DIST. 03

Nassau County
Farmingdale

Site Description

The Liberty Industrial Finishing Superfund site includes a thirty-acre property located at 55 Motor Avenue in the Village of Farmingdale, Town of Oyster Bay, Nassau County, New York. The Site was used for airplane parts manufacturing and associated metal finishing activities during World War II and the Korean War. In the late 1950's, the Site was converted to an industrial park and was used for a variety of industrial operations including metal plating and finishing and fiberglass product manufacturing. Since the 1980's, the Site has been used for light manufacturing and warehousing. A groundwater plume contaminated with organic and inorganic substances underlies the 30-acre former industrial area and extends approximately a mile to the south (designated as Plume A). Portions of the Massapequa Preserve, a nature preserve located about one-half mile to the south, are also contaminated from the past activities and will be addressed as part of the Superfund cleanup. A separate plume of organic contamination, designated as Plume B, originates to the north of the Liberty site and migrates in a southerly direction before commingling with a portion of Plume A.

Site Responsibility: This site is being addressed through Federal, State, and potentially responsible party (PRP) actions.

NPL LISTING HISTORY

Proposed Date: 10/15/84

Final Date: 06/10/86

Threats and Contaminants



Groundwater and soils are contaminated with heavy metals including cadmium and chromium and volatile organic compounds (VOCs) such as dichloroethene, trichloroethene, and tetrachloroethene. There are no private drinking wells in the vicinity of the Site. People living near the Site obtain their drinking water from local water utilities; the water utilities routinely test their supplies to ensure compliance with State and federal drinking water standards. In 1998, the PRPs installed “sentinel” wells, under EPA oversight, between the Liberty site and drinking water wells of the local water districts. These “sentinel” wells serve as an early warning system should any plume of contamination migrate close to the well fields. The water districts’ periodic monitoring of these “sentinel” wells has not detected any Site-related contaminant.



Risk characterizations conducted as part of EPA’s initial remedial investigation (RI) and supplemental RI concluded that the Site does not pose current-use risk to Site workers, nearby residents and those who frequent Ellsworth Allen Park and Massapequa Creek. Threats posed by elevated concentrations of polychlorinated biphenyls (PCBs) in soils adjacent to current and former electrical transformers were eliminated in early 1996 through a removal action described below.

Cleanup Approach

The Site is being addressed in two stages: immediate actions and a long-term remedial phase focusing on cleanup of the entire Site.

Response Action Status



Immediate Actions: Several cleanup efforts have been undertaken by PRPs for the Liberty site. In 1978 and 1987 under administrative orders issued by New York State Department of Environmental Conservation (NYSDEC), PRPs removed unknown amounts of contaminated soil and sludge from industrial waste disposal basins.

In 1994, pursuant to an order issued by EPA and under EPA oversight, PRPs for the Liberty site performed a cleanup action which removed soils contaminated with PCBs and which eliminated the only current human health risks posed by the Liberty site.

In 1998, EPA issued an order to the private-party PRPs at the Liberty site requiring them to implement an interim groundwater remedy. The objective was to prevent contaminated groundwater from migrating beyond the boundary of the Liberty property until the comprehensive soil and groundwater remedy could be implemented. After design and testing, the PRPs constructed separate treatment systems to address both the organic and inorganic contamination in January 2001. EPA approved the treatment process for the organic contamination which is currently operating and which is being expanded as directed by EPA. And, although initial tests indicated that the treatment technology for inorganic contamination would be fully successful, EPA is unsatisfied with the rate of results and is requiring the PRPs to build a new system to meet the cleanup objectives for those contaminants.

In late 1999, the owners of the Liberty site removed approximately 1.5 million pounds of PCB-contaminated shredded auto-fluff that had been stored at the Liberty site, as required by an EPA order issued pursuant to Section 16(a) of the Toxic Substances Control Act.

In March of 2002, EPA issued another cleanup order to the owners of the Liberty site requiring them to address below ground features in a number of World War II-era buildings on a ten-acre portion of the Liberty site. These features include sumps, vaults, drains, pipes, underground leaching chambers, underground storage tanks as well as a sanitary leaching field. The order also required the property owners to remove a contaminated mound of soil located on the western portion of the Site. The soil mound was removed in March 2003 and the work to address the underground features is expected to begin in the Spring of 2004 and be completed in the Fall of 2004.



Comprehensive Site-Wide Remedy: In the 1980's, the NYSDEC was the lead agency for the Liberty site which directed early Site investigation and subsequent cleanup activities. In 1990, EPA assumed the role of the lead governmental agency for environmental investigation and remediation of the Liberty site. Between 1991 and 1997, EPA conducted a remedial investigation to define the nature and extent of contamination and a feasibility study to identify alternatives to address contamination. In 1997, EPA issued a Proposed Plan for the remediation of the contaminated soils on the western portion of the Site. However, in response to public comments, EPA decided that additional investigatory work was required to more fully characterize the contamination at the Site. EPA issued an administrative order to several PRPs requiring them to conduct a supplemental remedial investigation and feasibility study. Field work for these supplemental investigations was completed in the Spring of 2000.

In April 2001, the supplemental RI/FS report which describes the nature and extent of contamination in Site soils, groundwater, and contamination in pond sediments in Massapequa Creek downstream of the Site, and in Plume B, as well as an evaluation of alternatives for comprehensive Site cleanup was released by EPA. In July 2001, EPA released a Proposed Plan that outlined the Agency's preferred long-term comprehensive remedy for the Liberty site.

In March 2002, EPA issued a Record of Decision (ROD) documenting the selection of a comprehensive remedial action for the Site which EPA estimates will cost more than \$34 million in present dollars. The primary remedial action, estimated to cost nearly \$32 million, includes excavation and off-Site disposal of 73,100 cubic yards of contaminated soils, construction and operation of a conventional pump-and-treat system to address on-Site and off-Site groundwater, and excavation and off-Site disposal of 2,600 cubic yards of contaminated pond sediments at the Massapequa Preserve. A separate action to remediate Plume B is estimated to cost more than \$2 million. The Remedial Design phase for this site is projected to occur between May 2004 and December 2005. The Remedial Action phase is projected to start in July 2005 and continue until December 2010.

Additional Site Facts and Information:

PRPs

During the 1940's and 1950's, certain of the facilities at the Liberty site were owned and operated by the Liberty Aircraft Products Company, a private corporation engaged in the production of aircraft parts. And, during World War II, certain of the facilities were owned by wartime agencies of the federal government. After the war years, the Site was converted to industrial park uses and later to light industrial and warehouse

uses. The Site became contaminated through these industrial uses and the parties responsible for the contamination at the Site include the United States government as successor to the wartime agencies, private parties that succeeded to the Liberty Aircraft Products Corporation, other industrial companies that operated at the Site, and the owners of the Liberty site. EPA has identified 12 private parties that are extant and financially viable and two government agencies, the Department of Defense and the General Services Administration, that are the successors to the wartime agencies.

In a settlement agreement concluded in September 2003, all of the PRPs, including the successors to the Liberty Aircraft Products Corporation, the federal agencies and the current owners of the Site, agreed to implement the \$32 million primary remedial action at the Liberty site.

EPA is working to conclude studies to identify the source of Plume B so that EPA can determine if a responsible party can be identified to implement that portion of the action.

New Public Park and Enhanced Remedy: Following the issuance of the Proposed Plan in July 2001, the Town of Oyster Bay announced its intention to acquire a fifteen-acre portion of the former industrial facility for expansion of the adjacent Ellsworth Allen Park for community recreational activities. EPA entered into negotiations with the Town for a prospective purchaser agreement which would release the Town from Superfund liability in contemplation of their future ownership and which would discharge existing and prospective Superfund liens against the parkland in exchange for a substantial payment of money from the Town to EPA which could be used for, among other things, cleanup activities or reimbursement of EPA costs at the Site. The prospective purchaser agreement became effective in June 2003. In September 2003, the Town acquired the 15-acre portion of the Liberty site. Following the cleanup, the Town will construct the recreational facilities and establish the new community park.

Prior to the Town's announced plans for the additional parkland, EPA had assumed, for purposes of remedy selection, that the Site would continue to be used for commercial or industrial purposes. The planned new parkland use, and other considerations including widespread support by community members and their elected representatives, caused EPA to re-evaluate the remedy to be selected for soils at the Liberty site. EPA's selected soil remedy included an expanded soil excavation at an estimated additional cost of more than \$4 million dollars. In September 2003, the private PRPs signed a Consent Judgement with the United States obligating them to implement the \$32 million comprehensive remedial action at the Liberty site.